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(b) whether it is a fact that many buses and lorries have been withdrawn from the road as a result of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to reduce the rates of provincial taxation? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" There is no such intention at present."

Mr. W. M. BROWNING:—" May I know, Sir, in view of the answer to clause (b), whether the Government are aware that over 700 buses have been withdrawn from the road since the 1st May of this year, in eighteen districts alone? "

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" Is the Government aware, Sir, that hon. Member for the information. At the same time I may inform him that the Government is collecting information on this point."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government propose to take any action to prevent local bodies from levying excessive licence fees? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" I do not admit that the licence fees are excessive. At the same time I may say that we are considering the question."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—" Is the Government aware, Sir, that the licence fees are not to be made a source of revenue? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" It is a matter of opinion."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to call for information as to how many buses and lorries have been withdrawn from the road in the Presidency? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" I have already answered that question that the Government have no information."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Is the Government aware that a number of private cars also have been withdrawn from the road? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" I thank the hon. Member for the information."

Production of registration certificate before the licensing authorities under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931.

* 385 Q.—Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that the licensing authorities under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, demand the production of the Registration certificate in the case of each payment of the motor vehicle tax;

(b) the necessity for the production of this certificate at each payment;

(c) whether he has received complaints that this requirement causes considerable inconvenience to owners of motor vehicles, and in some cases seriously delays the payment of the tax; and

(d) whether he will consider increasing the number of licensing officers and improving the facilities for and simplifying the method of payment of the tax?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes. Attention is invited to section 5 (3) (a) of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931.

(c) Yes.

(d) This question is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what necessity there is for the production of a registration certificate once the licence fee has been accepted by the Government every time the licence fee is paid? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I have answered that question, Sir. The law as it now stands requires it. The question is being considered."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the great inconvenience that is being caused, will the Government consider the desirability of amending that section? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I have already answered the question."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know in how many cases so far have duplicate registration certificates been obtained by reason of this provision of law? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I have no information."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what action has been taken by the Government on the complaints received? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" That matter is under consideration."

Public Health

Leprosy in South Kanara district.

* 386 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to give the following information—

(a) whether investigation has been made to ascertain why Sherwa in South Kanara district is badly affected by leprosy;

(b) if so, what are the results of the investigation;

(c) if there are statistics showing the incidence of leprosy at Sherwa, what are the figures for the years for which statistics are available;

(d) what is the result of the work of the Special Officer sent to Sherwa to train the local medical officer in the treatment of leprosy;

(e) what was the number of lepers treated in the local hospital;

(f) whether it is true that the treatment has been given up; and

(g) if so, for what reasons?